



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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32 districts qualify for 4K start-up grants

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster notified 32 school districts that their applications were approved to receive state funding for 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) start-up grants.

The Department of Public Instruction received applications to fund 4K programs for more than 4,000 students for the \$3 million grant program. Because of the overwhelming demand, the department will prorate funding, which is currently estimated at \$722 per child.

“Clearly, school districts know the value of early childhood education,” Burmaster said. “When children get an early start on learning, achievement gaps are halted before they begin.”

The DPI provided funding based on the number of applicants under the community approach statutory priority for 4K start-up grants. In a community approach to 4K, school districts form a council or advisory group and collaborate with a Head Start, licensed group-based childcare or preschool center to provide 4K services. New 4K programs funded through these grants will start in the 2008-09 school year.

The projected funding estimate will be revised on July 15 after districts indicate whether they are remaining in the grant process and again in November 2008 after the first child count. Final aid allocations for 4K start-up grants will not be known until June 2009 after the audited 2008-09 school year child count.

“The community approach model of providing 4K services recognizes the shared responsibility for providing quality early care and education,” Burmaster said. “Communities want and need financial support to improve services for 4-year-olds.”

In her 2005-07 education budget, Burmaster requested a 4K start-up grant program. The grants would have provided support for districts that wanted to start early learning programs but have been

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hampered because it takes three years to get full funding for the program under revenue limits. The governor included the 4K start-up grants in his 2007-09 budget request. The new categorical aid provides two-year grants to cover the approximate portion of revenue limit authority for a 4K student that districts could not claim under the three-year rolling average for enrollments.

“The interest districts showed in applying for grants demonstrates the need for this funding,” Burmaster said. “I commend the governor and Legislature for supporting the education of children in their early years.”

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_75.pdf. Additional information about the 4-Year-Old Kindergarten Grant program is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/ec/ec4yr-old-kind-grants.html>.

4-Year-Old Kindergarten Grants

School District	Estimated Enrollment	Estimated Grant Award
Antigo	102	\$73,644
Ashwaubenon	100	\$72,200
Beloit Turner	69	\$49,818
Black River Falls	135	\$97,470
Brown Deer	80	\$57,760
Campbellsport	75	\$54,150
Columbus	87	\$62,814
Deerfield Community	40	\$28,880
Ellsworth Community	80	\$57,760
Fort Atkinson	175	\$126,350
Green Bay Area	890	\$642,580
Hayward Community	134	\$96,748
Janesville	500	\$361,000
Jefferson	110	\$79,420
Johnson Creek	45	\$32,490
Luck	35	\$25,270
Menomonie Area	189	\$136,458
Mosinee	100	\$72,200
Northland Pines	59	\$42,598
Northwood	17	\$12,274
Omro	90	\$64,980
Pewaukee	103	\$74,366
Phillips	40	\$28,880
Port Washington-Saukville	120	\$86,640
Prescott	80	\$57,760
Saint Croix Falls	60	\$43,320
Sauk Prairie	140	\$101,080
Sheboygan Falls	102	\$73,644
Spring Valley	48	\$34,656
Stoughton Area	140	\$101,080
Tomorrow River	60	\$43,320
West De Pere	150	\$108,300
TOTAL	4,155	\$2,999,910